

1111 Harbor Lane
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

January 27, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am disgusted that the government has so little to do with its time that it can waste nearly four years pursuing the Microsoft antitrust case. I hoped that the economy, which has been suffering ever since this case began, would have the chance to recover. Microsoft's opponents have kept after Microsoft for so long. It is truly becoming tedious.

The settlement provides Microsoft's competitors with the opportunity to use Microsoft's technological advances to their own advantage, in order to restore an atmosphere of fair competition to the technology market. For example, Microsoft will reformat future versions of Windows so that its competitors will have the opportunity to introduce their own software directly into the Windows operating system. Microsoft will also allow computer makers the ability to replace Microsoft programs in Windows with non-Microsoft alternatives.

The settlement is fine; in fact, I think it would be harmful to the consumer to extend litigation any longer. The suit is no longer about progress; it is about inhibition. America desperately needs to be able to progress. I urge you and your office to take the necessary action to see this settlement finalized.

Sincerely,



Edwin Barksdale

cc: Representative Jefferson Miller